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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF

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THE PROGRESS OF NURSING IN GERMANY

No one who knows her Germany at all well was surprised at the evidences of vigorous initiative and progress on modern nursing lines which were arranged at the Cologne Congress, nor at the many strong, forceful, and able personalities who took part in the German contributions to the programme—matrons, sisters, and organizers. But those visitors who did not know Germany well were amazed by the array of leaders and the earnestness of their followers. It has been generally assumed that German nursing was still in the hands of religious orders, and the strength and ability of the Free Sisters took many by surprise.

In Sister Agnes Karll, the German nurses have a leader of very rare characteristics. Of irresistible energy, far-seeing, impelling, she carries, even sweeps, others with her, and without antagonizing. It interested us greatly to observe the demeanor of men toward her—men of importance and of official position. They bore themselves toward her as if she were a man whom they especially respected—another man; and there is here a subtle and significant shade of manner. And yet Sister Agnes is a most womanly woman, whose goodness to individuals is unending.

A deep impression was made by Sister Hélène Meyer, superintendent of nurses at Dortmund, whose personality is vivid, and by Sister Edith Koehler, superintendent of the Moabit Hospital Training School, in Berlin, who is the embodiment of calm strength. Sister Maida Lübben and Sister Martha Oesterlen, Sister Emma Ampt and others especially active in organization work, and the galaxy of those who are taking up social service of all kinds, give the keynote to the new trend in Germany. Excellent papers on all the new lines of work were read. Among them, easily the most dramatic and unusual, was that of Sister Henriette Arendt, the first German policewoman.

Sister Henriette is a truly remarkable woman. This department gave some notice a year or more ago of her investigations into the white slave traffic as regards children, and of the varied forms of almost incredible slavery of little girls from eight years up which she unearthed,

beginning during her activity as policewoman and later as investigator for a society of women. She has written a book called "White Child Slaves" which is absolutely heart-rending. In conversation Sister Henriette related many incidents of her work. Her investigations are dangerous in the extreme, and she has personally rescued more than 1200 little girls from a most horrible fate.

Since the Congress, the German nurses are working harder than ever. In October the National Council of Women met, and gave nursing conditions a large place on their programme. Sister Agnes and other leaders spoke on all points needing improvement, and it is noteworthy that they were joined by a Red Cross matron, Sister Marie von Keudell, who spoke on education and training, agreeing with the demand for three years and advanced standards, and who furthermore thanked Sister Agnes for pointing out deficiencies in the Red Cross training, and declared that her criticisms were those of a friend and were just. The National Council passed strong resolutions covering the needed reforms, emphasized the necessity of organization, and demanded continuous appeals to public authorities for the adjustment of professional grievances. Again we point out that the nursing movement is a part of the woman movement in its entire programme. Yet so great is the blindness of men, that a medical journal of Germany held it to be "bad taste, to say the least, for the Cologne Congress to pass a woman suffrage resolution."

Best of all the news is that the Leipzig *Frauen Hochschule*, where the nurses are to have a course similar to ours at Teachers College, is open, and there is a class of five nurses to begin with. Sister Agnes will deliver a series of lectures on nursing history there. She is delighted with the outlook and is travelling throughout Germany in the interest of the new opening and general organization.

THE PROGRESS OF NURSING IN ITALY

THE Cologne Congress was not attended by Miss Turton, Miss Baxter, or Miss Dorothy Snell, the superintendent of nurses in the new school at Rome, but encouraging reports of their progress came. The Roman school is in the lead by reason of having a proper nurses' home as an adjunct to the hospital, and, in consequence, stands forth as a permanent, fully-equipped institution with its own corporate life. No doubt the Neapolitan promoters of nursing will soon follow this example. They should do so in recognition of Miss Baxter's unique services as a pioneer training-school head. Miss Turton is, of course, full of happiness over the full fruition of her efforts—she was the *earliest* pioneer in

Italy. Miss Snell is an ideal head, and, until pupils are far enough advanced, permanent head nurses, mostly English, direct the wards.

Another training school, evidently on the same lines, has been founded in Milan. It is named for the Princess Iolanda, and is also under the protection of Queen Helen. It is in connection with the Medico-Surgical Hospital, and offers a two years' course with a third year of service. It has a nurses' home, and the rules speak of a matron, but we have not yet learned whether she has been chosen. The Training School Committee consists of four ladies, to one of whom candidates are to apply.

The young representatives of the Red Cross volunteer service who came to the Congress were so charming, so full of enthusiasm and ardor, that we feel prompted to make an appeal to them to go into one of the Italian training schools now open to them and get a full training. At the banquet they excused their amateur status, saying that an "amateur" is one who works with love. But why not work with love and knowledge both? They are educated and cultured, just the ones who are needed as leaders for Italian nurses. They belong to the aristocracy, and perhaps their relatives oppose hospital training. But can they not exert their social prerogatives to establish a precedent? With full hospital training, useful and distinguished careers await them. As amateurs under the Red Cross, they are likely to be only obstacles to thorough nursing standards, as are the society dames of the French Red Cross service, dabbling in minor surgery, and knowing nothing of real nursing. It would be a great pity if these young Italians followed the shallow methods of the French Red Cross.

ITEMS

WE have mentioned before this the interest taken by the government of the French colonies in Algeria in the Bordeaux nursing movement. This interest culminated in the past summer in a request from M. Lutaud, Governor-General of Algeria, to the Department of City Hospitals in Bordeaux, for the loan of Miss Elston to open a training school in Alger on the model of those in Bordeaux. The request (says *La G. M. H.* for October) was readily granted by M. Cazalet, director of the Tondou, and by the mayor of the city, M. Gruet, who is head of the hospitals department. Miss Elston departed for Alger, taking with her the official permission of her chiefs for the new school to adopt the uniform with some slight modifications. She was installed in the Parnet Hussein Dey Hospital, and was to return to Bordeaux early in November. The future of the new school will be watched with interest.

A RECENT number of the *Australasian Nurses' Journal* expressed editorial concern over the absence among Australian nurses of the "art of public speaking." The editor (a physician, if we are not mistaken) says: "The difficulty of getting nurses to voice their opinions is a striking but also a lamentable feature of all general meetings of the association. . . . so the meetings often fail to fulfil their object, that is, to obtain the views of nurses themselves, and the Council is often at a loss how to settle matters which concern the nurses personally." The editor draws a comparison with American nurses and their readiness in open speech. Now this gives us an opportunity which we cannot resist. The editors and directing officers of the Australian nurses' journals and associations are almost always physicians. At these meetings, where nurses are so silent, a physician takes the chair, another acts as honorary (unpaid) secretary, others are present as members. Their good will and zealous kindness are such that we are loath to seem ungracious, so will therefore simply assume that, on some certain day, all these medical officers and members should be by some act of Providence inevitably hindered from going to the nurses' meeting, and the latter be compelled to conduct it themselves. What would happen? The nurses would talk as freely as Americans. If the doctors doubt this just let them experiment in a spirit of scientific curiosity!

The National Child Labor Committee reports that Rhode Island and South Carolina have prohibited the employment as night messengers of boys under 21 and 18, respectively.